

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
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2003

DISPATCH NO. HLL-a-1177

~~SECRET~~  
PBSUCCESS/RVBAT  
CLASSIFICATION

16 JUN 1954

TO PBSUCCESS, Headquarters  
FROM LINCOLN

DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
INFO: [ ] (for HEGARTY,  
[ ] [ ]

SUBJECT { GENERAL KUGOWN  
SPECIFIC Pt-19 (CEGAM: PRONTO)

Ref: HLL-A-990 (not sent [ ])

1. In reference dispatch, we requested a comprehensive status report on subject (both the group and the publication) from Francis P. HEGARTY since LINCOLN files do not contain adequate information. At the same time, we debriefed [ ] -- who had been originally sent by CALLIGERIS to Mexico to establish both subjects but who had in the meantime joined the SHERWOOD editorial team at LINCOLN -- on the basis of a detailed questionnaire.

2. We are sending herewith to each addressee one copy of our questionnaire into which [ ] replies (translated from the Spanish original) have been inserted. These replies indicate that

- (a) CEGAM apparently represents most of the Guatemalan exiles in Mexico,
- (b) no copies of PRONTO reach Guatemala,
- (c) the organization is weak, but shows possibilities for future development.

The information is submitted to HEADQUARTERS as a possible basis for any future decision concerning subject, if any use beyond the current phase of PBSUCCESS should become possible and/or desirable.

3. [ ] We still want to receive the report from HEGARTY, requested in the attachment to reference, (a) because we asked him several questions which we could not ask [ ] -- especially about HEGARTY's mechanism of control over subject, (b) because we consider it sound practice to check, especially in the case of information on exile groups, information from two different sources against each other.

4. [ ] Please do not take, at least for the time being, any action on the basis of the attached report. Any subsequent decision as to whether subject should be continued beyond the present phase of PBSUCCESS (provided subject remains in existence

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beyond this phase) -- and if so, whether control should remain vested in [ ]  
via CALLIGERIS, as originally directed by HEADQUARTERS, or transferred to you --  
will have to come from HEADQUARTERS at a later stage.

[ ]  
WILLIAM D. PLAYDEN

[ ]  
WDR/EFL/a

16 June 1954

Distribution:

- 3 - WASH (w/att) ✓
- 2 - [ ] (w/att)
- 2 - [ ] (w/att)
- 4 - LINC (w/att)

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CEGAM and PRONTO

1. How many Guat exiles live in Mexico, approximately?

Ans. Approximately 50.

2. How many of them are members of CEGAM? How many of the others belong to exile groups -- to which -- or to Mexican political organizations?

Ans. There are approximately 40 members of CEGAM and the rest belong to the Comité Pro-Liberación de Guatemala.

3. Who are the officers of CEGAM ( members of its executive committee)? Enumerate them by name, giving their official title and describe their actual work in the organization.

Ans. The members of the Board of Directors of CEGAM are:

José Calderón Salazar	Director	(journalist)
Roberto Gomez de Leon	Director	(student of dentistry)
Bernardo Méndez R.	Director	(army captain)
Moisés E. Orozco h.	Sec. of Finances	(clerk)
Manuel Mateu Pilóna	Sec. of Propaganda	( owner of a restaurant)
Eugenio Mendez Santiago	Secretary of Transactions	(clerk)

4. Does CEGAM have an office? If so, give address and size ( number of rooms). Does it work on a full-time or a part-time basis? Who does what work there -- on a paid or voluntary basis?

Ans. The CEGAM has no office, but Jose Calderon Salazar has given his private office over to the activities of the Organization. This office is situated on Ave. 16 de Septiembre No. 39-81 -- and Calderon Salazar transacts there all the problems of CEGAM from 10 o'clock A.M. until

until 2 O'clock p.m. and from 4 o'clock p.m. until 7 o'clock p.m. daily. He does it voluntarily ( that is, he receives no salary).

5. Describe the regular, day-by-day activities of CEGAM: How often are meetings held -- for members only or for a general public? How many people ( on the average ) do attend these meetings? What other activities are being carried out by members and officers?

Ans. I cannot say exactly, but the main activities are: to write Pronto , to correct it at the printers, to dispatch the packages to the exterior, and to answer all correspondence. Furthermore, it is necessary to maintain continuous contact with other organizations of our same orientation.

The last meeting was held Saturday, 24 April. All those attending signed a document recognizing "Pancho" as the Supreme Chief of the movement and agreed to contribute their efforts to the liberation of the Patria. Among those attending and signing ( in addition to the Board of Directors) were:

Alfonso Azmitia	engineering student
Horacio de Cordoba	newspaperman and radio technician
Ruben Villatoro	worker
Escolastico Ortega	farmer
Gabriel Fernandez	civil aviator and manufacturer
Humberto Solis Gallardo	lawyer
Alberto Lira	captain
Arturo Classon,	newspaperman
Moises Evaristo Orozco	Colonel
Jorge A. Palacios	chiropractist
Carlos Ibarguen	manufacturer
Jorge Nanne	manufacturer
Otto Samayoa	clerk

6. Is CEGAM making efforts to recruit additional members? If so, in what way and with what success? ( If not, why not? )

Ans. Yes. CEGAM began its activities 15 March with only 6 members and at this time it counts on about 80% of the Guatemalan emigrants. In the last few

months it has assuredly succeeded in attracting more active members.

7. With what other groups, government agencies, newspapers or prominent personalities is CEGAM in contact? Enumerate each such contact, stating how close it is, what purposes it has served thus far or what use may be made of it in the future.

Ans. The CEGAM group has had very close contact with the following groups:

- a) Frente Popular Anticomunista de Mexico
- b) Confederacion Nacional de Estudiantes (\*)
- c) Organizacion Regional Interamericana de Trabajadores ( ORIT)
- d) Prensa ( El Universal, Atisbos, Nosotros, Si, Ovaciones,  
UP, INS, AP)

\* The students of the CNE have repeatedly offered their unconditional support to our cause. Including violent manifestations, etc.

8. How many members of CEGAM are capable and willing to return to Guatemala -- now or in the future? What type of activities could they undertake there?

Ans. All of the members of CEGAM are anxious to return to their Patria. Very few of the individuals who compose the CEGAM would be able to develop activities of importance. Aside from Jose Calderon Salazar, who is one of the best journalists Latin America can count on, the remainder will be able to adjust themselves to the activities they carry on in connection with their professions or trades, enumerated in point 5.

9. How many copies of each issue of Pronto are being printed?

Ans. 3000 copies of Pronto are presently being printed, weekly.

10. How many of these copies are being

a) sold

ans. none

10. How many of these copies are being ( cont.)

b. Distributed free in Mexico -- and to what groups of people?

ans. Distributed free in Mexico, approximately 1000 copies among university students, the press, anti-communist groups, workers, and emigrants . . .

c. Sent into Guatemala and by what ways? ( This is particularly important and should be answered in great detail)

ans. I do not believe that they are being sent to Guatemala directly, unless they have arranged a liaison with an individual resident in Coatepeque which they desired to do.

d. Sent to other countries -- to which countries and to what group of recipients there?

ans. It is being sent to all Latin American countries ( newspapers, Catholic organizations, universities, etc.), approximately 300 copies.

11. Does Pronto receive letters from its readers -- in Mexico, in Guatemala or elsewhere? How many a month ( approximately) from each such source?

Ans. I suppose so, but I could not be definite about the number.

12. Are Articles of Pronto being attacked by hostile groups, publications, radio stations or in any other way? If so, how often do such attacks occur, by whom and for what principal reasons ( with what main arguments)?

Ans. Since it was so short a time since Pronto was first printed, it is not very well known and I do not believe that it has been the victim of attacks. Up until this moment I have not seen anything appear.

13. Are articles of Pronto being reprinted by other publications -- in which publications and ( approximately ) how many per month? ( or quoted by radio stations)?

Ans. Almost all the Radio Stations serving the liberating movement reproduce the editorial articles of Pronto, because it has been considered the best publicity organ published in the exterior.

14. Are the finances of CEGAM and Pronto being handled separately or together? By whom? Give -- preferably separately for each of them -- an estimate of their average monthly --

- a. Total income
- b. Breakdown of income: how much comes from Pancho, from sales of newspapers, from membership fees and from what other sources?
- c. Total expenses
- d. Breakdown of expenses: salaries, printing costs, etc.

Ans. Pronto has an approximate monthly budget of \$2,000.00. Some times it has been financed by "Pancho" and other times by the contact who is in Mexico. The budget of Pronto includes printing and especially, the air mail postage to send it to the exterior. 2000 copies are sent to El Salvador and Honduras. No member of CEGAM contributes to its maintenance.

15. Add any other pertinent information on either CEGAM or Pronto which is not mentioned in the above questions.

Ans. Ruben Villatoro, labor leader recently expelled from Guatemala, stubbornly worked on the attitude of the directors of ORIT and of the RFL to influence them in favor of our cause. On 1 May a Congreso Sindical de Organizaciones Libres was held in Mexico and ORIT announced its repudiation of the Arbenz regime.